

EDITORS AS AUTHORS:
PUBLICATION TRENDS OF ARTICLES
AUTHORED BY JABA EDITORS

R. MARK MATHEWS

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Journal editors are gatekeepers; they review and shape the work of others, and influence the journal's direction and quality. They also contribute to the body of knowledge within a field as authors. The author role of editors of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis* is described. Annual publication rates of the 55 former and current editors and associate editors are presented and discussed.

DESCRIPTORS: *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, publication history, editors

The Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA) primarily publishes reports of experimental research involving applications of behavior analysis to problems of social importance. Laties and Mace (1993) recently reported on JABA's success in accomplishing its mission for a wide variety of problems. Northup, Vollmer, and Serratt (1993) described the number and types of articles, subjects, settings, target behaviors, and intervention procedures used in research articles published in JABA. In this report, I present descriptive data on the role of JABA editors and associate editors (AEs) as authors of articles published by the journal.

METHOD

In JABA's first 29 years, it has had 11 editors. With the exception of the founding editor, Montrose Wolf, each editor had previously served as an associate editor. Forty-four other people have also served as associate editor. A list of these 55 editors and AEs was compiled by reviewing the inside cover of each volume of the journal. JABA publications by

these 55 were identified by a computer search of JABA Abstracts Web page on the Internet (<http://www.envmed.rochester.edu/wwwrap/behavior/jaba/jabaindx.htm>). This database includes information about every JABA publication (including editorials, reports, discussion articles, and research reports) from the journal's inception in 1968 to the most recently published volume at the time of the search (1996, Vol. 29). A printout of the search results was used to create a table listing the annual number of JABA publications by each editor and associate editor.

To check the accuracy and completeness of the computer database, the author index (published each year in the winter issue) from 5 randomly selected years was used to compile a list of publications by the 55 editors and AEs. The computer database and the review of the author index yielded an identical list of 135 publications for those 5 years.

Membership directories from the Association for Behavior Analysis, the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy, and the American Psychological Society, as well as *Dissertation Abstracts International*, were also reviewed to identify the year that each of the 55 editors and AEs received a doctoral degree.

Address correspondence to R. Mark Mathews, Department of Human Development, 4001 Dole, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 (E-mail: mark@dole.lsi.ukans.edu).

Publication Year	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
Editor															
Wolf	1	2	1	3	1	2	1		2	2	1				1
Baer	5	1	2	3	1	6	4		4	5	4			2	1
Risley	5	1	1		2	1	5	3	2	4			3	1	
Agras	1		1		1	2	1						1		
O'Leary		1			2	3		1	2			3	1		
Barlow			1			1		1				1		1	
Iwata							1		2	1	2	2	2	3	4
Bailey		2	1	1		1	2	1	2	3	2			1	3
Geller						1			2				1		1
Neef									1	1	1		1	1	
Wacker															
Associate Editor															
Ayllon	2				1		1	1	1				1		
Leitenberg	1		1		1										
Lovaas		1				1	1								
McMichael		1													
Sherman	1		1			2	3	3		1			1		1
Wasik		1												1	
Wahler		2				2		1					2	1	
Stolz		1				1				1				1	
Born					1		1								
Kazdin					1	3		3			2		1	2	3
Sulzer-Azaroff			1			1					1		1		
Fixsen				1	1	2			2	1					
Herbert-Jackson					1	1			1	1					
Lieberman						1		1	1				1		
Twardosz				2	1	1									
Nelson										1		1	1	1	
Alexander												1			
Wilson							1	1							
Drabman							3	1	1			1	1	1	3
Hartmann							1	2	1	1		1	1		1
Koegel				1	1	2	1		3	1			2	2	
Schreibman								1			1				
Hayes								1		2		2	1	1	
Brownell															
Kratochwill							1			1		1			
Reid										1	2	2		2	3
Martin												2			
Van Houten							1	2	1			1	2	2	1
Fuqua															1
Greene										1	1			1	
Page									1	1	1		1	2	1
Parrish															
Egel														3	
Fowler											1			1	
Mathews										1			1		
Mace															
Horner															
Winett					1						1	2		1	1
Cuvo									1	2	1	1	2		1
Martens															
Friman													1		
Fisher															
Halle												1		1	
Spradlin												1		1	
Total	16	13	10	8	17	33	30	24	25	38	21	24	30	34	24
Unduplicated	13	12	7	6	14	28	28	24	19	33	17	22	27	24	21
Research Articles	12	12	6	6	11	25	25	21	18	25	15	13	24	21	19

Figure 1. *JABA* publications included in Volumes 1 (1968) through 15 (1982) by *JABA* editors and associate editors. The highlighted outlined portion denotes the years in which each person served as editor. Highlighted unoutlined areas denote the years in which each person served as an associate editor.

83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	Publication Year
														Editor
				2						1				Wolf
	1			2		1		4	2	2				Baer
	1			1		1								Risley
														Agras
										1				O'Leary
										1				Barlow
	2	1	1	1	2	1	5	3	1	8	13	6	6	Iwata
3	3			5	5	3	1	1	1	2				Bailey
1		2	1			1	5	9	3	1				Geller
1	2		2		1	1	1	2	1	4	4	4	3	Neef
1		3		1	2	4	4	1	3	2	5	3	4	Wacker
														Associate Editor
														Ayllon
														Leitenberg
				2	1					1				Lovaas
														McMichael
							1	3	2					Sherman
		1												Wasik
			1											Wahler
														Stolz
														Born
														Kazdin
3			1				2		5		1			Sulzer-Azaroff
										1				Fixsen
				1										Herbert-Jackson
					1									Lieberman
						1								Twardosz
				1										Nelson
														Alexander
														Wilson
	1													Drabman
1			1	2			1		1	1				Hartmann
1		1			1				1		1	1		Koegel
		1						1		1	1			Schreibman
														Hayes
														Brownell
											1			Kratochwill
3	2	1		2	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	3	1	Reid
					1									Martin
1	1	3		1	4	1		2	1	2				Van Houten
2	1	1	1			1				1	1	1		Fuqua
1	4				1	1	1					3		Greene
		2	1			1								Page
1			2		1	1		1						Parrish
1	2		3			1								Egel
	1	2	1		1			1	2					Fowler
						1			1			2		Mathews
			2		2		2	3	2	4	4	4	3	Mace
	1					1		3	1	1	2			Horner
		1			3			4						Winett
			1		1		1		3	1		2	1	Cuvo
									1		2		1	Martens
		1	1	2			1			1		3	1	Friman
								1	1	3	3	1	10	Fisher
								1						Halle
								1					1	Spradlin
20	22	20	20	23	28	21	27	46	33	40	39	33	31	Total
16	19	19	15	21	25	18	27	42	32	38	35	31	29	Unduplicated
15	17	19	15	11	19	13	22	27	21	23	25	26	23	Research Articles

Figure 2. *JABA* publications included in Volumes 16 (1983) through 29 (1996) by *JABA* editors and associate editors. The highlighted outlined portion denotes the years in which each person served as editor. Highlighted unoutlined areas denote the years in which each person served as an associate editor.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures 1 and 2 show the number of *JABA* publications authored each year by *JABA*'s former and current editors and AEs. As a group, they published a mean of 0.68 *JABA* articles per year ($M = 4.60$ articles; $M = 6.80$ years) from the time they first published in *JABA* until they were first appointed associate editor. They published a mean of 0.94 *JABA* articles per year ($M = 2.78$ articles; $M = 2.96$ years) as associate editors. Five members of this group experienced an interim period between serving as associate editor and being appointed editor; they published a mean of 1.23 *JABA* articles per year ($M = 4.57$ articles; $M = 3.71$ years) during that period. The 11 editors published a mean of 2.41 *JABA* articles per year ($M = 6.36$ articles; $M = 2.64$ years) during their term as editor. Subsequently, as a group, they published a mean of 0.38 *JABA* articles per year ($M = 5.18$ articles; $M = 13.73$ years) after completing their term as editor or associate editor.

In cases of multiple authorship (e.g., Baer, Wolf, & Risley, 1968), each author was credited with the publication. The row marked "Total" provides the sum of all publications attributed to the editors and AEs each year. This results in a mean of 25.9 articles each year and a total of 750 journal contributions. These totals are somewhat misleading, however, because many of the articles had more than one editor or associate editor as an author. The row marked "Unduplicated" includes the total, by year, of the 662 articles actually published by the 55 editors and AEs over the past 29 years. A comparison of the duplicated and unduplicated totals show that a mean of 12% of these articles were coauthored by two or more editors (ranging from 0% to 30% per year).

In preparing the figures, no distinction was made between editorials, commentaries,

discussion articles, and research articles. Northup et al. (1993) reported that from 1968 through 1992, *JABA* published a yearly average of 43.4 research articles (74% of the manuscripts published were research articles). The bottom row of each figure includes a summary of the unduplicated research articles published each year by the journal's editors and AEs. Over the past 29 years, this group of authors published a mean of 18.2 research articles per year in *JABA* (80% of their *JABA* publications were research articles).

The number of years of postdoctoral experience that each of the former editors had prior to his or her initial appointment as an associate editor was also calculated for each member of the group ($M = 9.55$ years; $SD = 2.36$). Since the journal's inception, there has been an increasing trend for new associate editors to have greater postdoctoral experience (standardized beta coefficient = .432, $t = 3.516$, $p < .001$) before becoming an editor. In addition, there has been a corresponding trend for new associate editors to have a greater number of *JABA* publications (standardized beta coefficient = .561, $t = 4.883$, $p < .001$) before becoming an editor.

Like most scientific and professional journals, *JABA* relies on the voluntary efforts of experienced members of the scientific community to review and edit manuscripts for the journal. The editor is selected for a 3-year term by the governing board of the Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior. In turn, the editor chooses individuals to serve as AEs. Along with the journal's editorial board, they review and edit manuscripts that have been submitted for publication. Thus, as editors they have some indirect influence on the research published by the journal. However, based on data included in this report, it is clear that the journal's editors influence the content and quality of the journal more directly as authors of the work published in the journal.

REFERENCES

- Baer, D. M., Wolf, M. M., & Risley, T. R. (1968). Some current dimensions of applied behavior analysis. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 1, 91-97.
- Laties, V. G., & Mace, F. C. (1993). Taking stock: The first 25 years of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 26, 513-525.
- Northup, J., Vollmer, T. R., & Serrett, K. (1993). Publication trends in 25 years of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 26, 527-537.

Received May 12, 1997

Initial editorial decision June 16, 1997

Final acceptance July 22, 1997

Action Editor, David P. Wacker